

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06595 111741Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 RSR-01

OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 /127 W

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O 111652Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8903

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 6595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, VE, CO

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE TO RELAX SANCTIONS AGAINST

CUBA

REF: STATE 158486

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER VIRTUALLY COMMITTED COLOMBIA TO SUPPORT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE.

1. ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, I TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER TO REQUEST URGENT APPOINTMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER CAME ON LINE AND I EXPLAINED NATURE OF REQUEST. HE STATED HE COULD NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH ME UNTIL HE HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT PASTRANA AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE ME AN APPOINTMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR VENEZUELA AUGUST 14.

2. NEVERTHELESS I SOUGHT OUT FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE ECUADORIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION EVENING OF AUGUST 9, AND AFTER A FEW PRELIMINARY REMARKS PUT THE QUESTION TO HIM AGAIN. AT FIRST HE TOOK EVASIVE ACTION STATING HE HAD NOT SEEN THE TEXT AND THEREFORE COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT. I ASKED HIM TO ASSUME THE TEXT WAS QUOTE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL END QUOTE TO THE VENEZUELAN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSAL OF JUNE. IN THAT CASE, HE RESPONDED, COLOMBIA WOULD

IN ALL PROBABILITY SUPPORT THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL. I THEN
POINTED OUT THE JURIDICAL QUESTION EMPHASIZING THE COSTA RICAN
POSITION WHICH HE WAVED ASIDE AND STATED THAT GIVEN THE RECENT
ESTABLISHMENT OF MOST CORDIAL PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE OTHER OBJECTIVES
COLOMBIA HAD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA THAT IT WOULD BE
ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO ENVISION COLOMBIA ON THE
OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FENCE FROM VENEZUELA. AS THIS WAS NOT
AN APPROPRIATE SITE TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT AT ANY GREAT LENGTH
AND AS OTHERS WERE PRESSING FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION
I ONLY HAD TIME FOR ONE MORE QUESTION: QUOTE SUPPOSE THAT THE
VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE COULD NOT COMMAND SUFFICIENT VOTES TO CARRY,
WHAT WOULD COLOMBIA DO? END QUOTE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED
THAT IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY THE ENTIRE APPROACH WOULD REQUIRE
RECONSIDERATION.

3. EARLIER IN THE EVENING I SPOKE WITH THE VENEZUELAN AMB
QUEVEDO AND WITH CARLOS BORDA THE SECOND MAN IN THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY. THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED
NO INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
AND THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW COLOMBIA HAD TAKEN NO POSITION.

4. BORDA STATED THAT ALL THE POSITION PAPERS PREPARATORY TO
TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA HAD GONE THROUGH
HIM AND THAT THE SUBJECT OF CUBA HAD NOT BEEN TREATED. HE
ADDED HOWEVER THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS PERSONALLY VERY MUCH AGAINST
THE INITIATIVE HE BELIEVED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD VOTE WITH VENEZUELA
ON THIS ISSUE FOR REASONS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. HE
STATED HIS OPINION THAT THE ONLY POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS WAS
TO CONVINCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS OF THE
SOUNDNESS OF THE COSTA RICAN POSITION. BORDA EMPHASIZED HIS
BELIEF THAT ALTHOUGH COLOMBIA WOULD VOTE WITH VENEZUELA ON
LIBERTY OF ACTION, COLOMBIA ITSELF WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE CUBA
DURING THE PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION.

WHITE

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